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RURAL AREAS
DEVELOPMENT

NEWSLETTER

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CURRENT SERIAL RECORDS
No. 103

FHA, PRIVATE ENTERPRISE JOIN IN UNIQUE HOME-BUILDING PROGRAM

In a first-of-its-kind venture in the United States, the Farmers Home Administration and U.S. Plywood-Champion Papers, Inc. have joined forces to create a whole new "town" for employees of the company near Corrigan, Texas.

When USP-CP bought the 200,000 acre timber holding of W. T. Carter Brothers in July, 1968, it started immediately to find new housing for company employees who were residing in company-owned cottages in Camden, a few miles from Corrigan. In coordination with FHA, the lumber firm developed a 117-acre tract into 156 home sites just south of Corrigan, installed water and sewer systems and paved the streets. All but a handful of the four-bedroom homes have been financed by FHA, with loans averaging \$8,000 to \$10,000. Some families qualified for interest supplements provided by the Housing and Urban Development Act of 1968.

RURAL AFFAIRS COMMISSION INVITES TESTIMONY

Virginia residents are to be invited to testify at seven public hearings scheduled for June, July and September by the newly-created Rural Affairs Study Commission of the Commonwealth of Virginia.

Commission objectives are to determine what actions are necessary:

- to equip more rural communities to absorb a larger share of the state's growing population and expanding job and business opportunities;
- to equip the youth and working-age adults of the state with the skills they need to earn a living;
- to make the best use of the human and natural resources of rural Virginia.

Lyman C. Harrell Jr., chairman of the commission, noted that testimony from all individuals and organizations interested in rural development would be welcome.

Inquiries about the commission may be addressed to Mr. Ken Rainey, Executive Director, Rural Affairs Study Commission, Commonwealth of Virginia, Room 1010, James Madison Bldg., Richmond, Virginia 23219.

THREE TAPS WIN HIGH HONORS
AMONG ANNUAL USDA AWARDS

Three Technical Action Panels recently won high awards at the annual USDA awards ceremony.

The Sandoval County TAP at Bernalillo, New Mexico, received the Department's highest group achievement recognition, the Distinguished Service Award, for dramatic progress in helping people to achieve a better economy in the Nation's fifth poorest county.

With the formation of the Bernalillo Development Corporation several new industries already have located in the area and many others are considering sites there. Over 1,000 homes have been improved. More than 1,500 residents now are enjoying new community recreation centers. Improved rural water systems serve 1,830 people.

Job training and educational efforts are being successfully carried on in a new specially designed training center and through on-the-job projects.

The Sumter County, Florida, TAP and the Eddy County, New Mexico, TAP both received the USDA Superior Service Awards.

The Sumter County group assisted in obtaining four new industries, employing more than 300 people. They also helped establish recreational facilities and a central water system; were active in conservation projects, and arranged for a food distribution program which aided more than 2,000 low-income citizens.

The Eddy County TAP prepared an overall economic development plan for the county, made it available to a corporation which reopened its potash mine there and now employs about 250 area residents.

The Panel also helped in extending food and nutrition programs and information to low-income county citizens, in improving housing especially through self-help methods, in training and developing manpower, in arranging for construction of modern water systems for rural communities and in promoting outdoor recreation and conservation.

INDUSTRY INVESTMENTS SET RECORD

Industry invested a record \$224,805,600 for new plant facilities in 36 communities served by Monongahela Power Company in Northern West Virginia and Southeastern Ohio in 1968.

The power company listed 26 new industries establishing production operations for the first time and 25 in-plant expansions by existing firms.

The 51 projects represent an economic shot in the arm to the area in creating 2,422 job opportunities that are expected to generate new annual payrolls totaling over \$25,000,000.

Contact: J. C. Millin, manager, area development, Monongahela Power Company, 1310 Fairmont Ave., Fairmont, West Virginia 26554.

CENTERVILLE WANTED INDUSTRY,
GOT IT AND PROSPERS

The revitalization of rural Iowa communities via industrialization was reported in a recent issue of a national news magazine (U.S. News & World Report).

Example: As its coal-and-farming economy declined, the population of Centerville dropped from 8,413 in 1940 to 6,629 in 1960. But with the opening of a plastic container factory in 1962 and later construction of a toaster manufacturing operation, Centerville now has a population estimated at 7,000, including 1,100 factory workers. Townspeople rallied, too, to keep the Centerville Community College alive after enrollment dipped to 23 students in 1954. Its enrollment now is 800.

Observed an industrial plant locator:

"Centerville was a town that was really wanting industry, not just wishing for industry. There's a big difference."

CONSERVATION EASEMENT FOUND USEFUL

An unusual grant from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development will enable Yellow Springs, Ohio to acquire a conservation easement on desirable farmland for the purpose of preserving it in its natural state.

This conservation easement in perpetuity keeps the land on the tax rolls in private ownership and at the same time will insure that land along the access road to John Bryan State Park will be permanently free of incompatible development. Such easements, according to HUD, should be considered where access to land is not a primary objective of a community's open space program and outright purchase may be unnecessary.

For further information concerning this \$11,250 grant, contact:
Mr. Howard Kahoe, Village Manager, 316 Dayton Street, Yellow Springs, Ohio 45387.

MANPOWER LEAFLETS OFFERED
BY LABOR DEPARTMENT

Concentrated Employment Program is one in a new series of pamphlets made available by the U.S. Department of Labor explaining some of that department's major manpower programs. The Concentrated Employment Program (CEP) unifies and concentrates all Federal manpower efforts in specific slum or rural areas to attack unemployment and related problems of the disadvantaged.

Other pamphlets in the series include: Manpower Development and Training, Experimental and Demonstration Program, New Careers, Older Workers, Work Incentive Program, Work Training in Industry, Youth Opportunity Centers, and Apprenticeship Training.

The Department of Labor states that copies may be obtained from the nearest local office of the State Employment Service or by writing to the Office of Information, Manpower Administration, U.S. Department of Labor, Washington, D.C. 20210.



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WHAT DO PEOPLE THINK ABOUT RURAL AMERICANS?

Below are some results of a survey among adult Americans conducted for the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association by International Research Associates, Inc. (Percentages not included were those persons who saw "no difference" or held "no opinion.")

"Thinking about the people who live in the big cities and in the rural areas -- which do you feel would be more likely:

	BIG CITY	RURAL
"To be warm and friendly to other people	7%	81%
"To be in good health	8%	75%
"To be very honest in their business dealings	6%	65%
"To be the most hard-working	15%	56%
"To get real fun out of life	29%	53%
"To work actively in community affairs	27%	52%
"To be concerned about the problems and needs of people outside their own communities	30%	42%
"To be open-minded about other people's opinions	35%	36%
"To be well-informed on what is going on in the world	54%	19%
"To have a lot of tension and pressure in their daily lives"	83%	5%